

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A method of building a database utilizing a computer in an exchange system to enable identification of a location of distributed health care information, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving, for a particular patient, metadata including organization information, patient demographic data, and information locator data from each of a plurality of disparate organizations, the information locator data from each of the plurality of disparate organizations including data that identifies a location of at least one health care record stored at a corresponding one of the plurality of disparate organizations;

determining a universal person object corresponding to the demographic data;

updating the universal person object in accordance with the metadata; and

storing the information locator data so that the information locator data is associated with the universal person object so as to enable virtually centralized access to the health care records stored at the plurality of disparate organizations.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the determining step further comprises the steps of:

searching the database for an existing universal person object corresponding to the patient demographic data and determining that there is no existing universal person object corresponding to the patient demographic data; and

creating the universal person object corresponding to the patient demographic data.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the determining step further comprises the step of searching the database and locating the universal person object corresponding to the patient demographic data.

4. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of, after the updating step, forwarding the universal person object to a parent server.

5. (original) The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of, after the updating step, forwarding the universal person object to a parent server.

6. (original) The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of, after the updating step, forwarding the universal person object to a parent server.

7. (previously presented) A computer implemented method of locating particular health care information pertaining to a person wherein the particular health care information is stored among a plurality of disparate organizations, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a query from a provider;

correlating the query against at least a primary database in at least a primary domain to locate a universal person object corresponding to the person;

retrieving locator data associated with the universal person object, the locator data including data that identifies a remote location, among the plurality of disparate organizations, of the particular health care information pertaining to the person;

filtering the locator data according to one or more policies; and

presenting the locator data to the provider so as to enable the provider to generate a virtually centralized view of health care records distributed among the plurality of disparate organizations.

8. (original) The method of claim 7 further comprising the steps of:

determining if a pointer exists in the primary database, the pointer indicating a remote database in a remote domain; and

if the pointer exists, correlating the query against the remote database in the remote domain.

9. (original) The method of claim 7 further comprising the steps of:

- presenting correlation results to the provider; and
- receiving constraints and parameters from the provider, the constraints and parameters for directing the retrieving of the locator data.

10. (original) The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of:

- presenting correlation results to the provider; and
- receiving constraints and parameters from the provider, the constraints and parameters for directing the retrieving of the locator data.

11. (previously presented) In a network including distributed health care information, a computer implemented method of viewing a record for a particular person from within the health care information, the method comprising the steps of:

- sending a query from a provider application to a primary domain server;
- correlating the query by accessing at least a primary database in at least a primary domain to locate a universal person object corresponding to the particular person;
- retrieving locator data associated with the universal person object, the locator data including data that identifies at least one remote data system from among a plurality of disparate data systems, wherein the at least one remote data system stores one or more health care records for the particular person;
- filtering the locator data according to one or more policies;
- presenting the locator data to the provider application;
- selecting, at the provider application, the one or more health care records from a the at least one remote data system;
- accessing the one or more health care records from the at least one remote data system by the provider application; and
- presenting the one or more health care records so as to provide a virtually centralized view of the one or more health care records.

12. (original) The method of claim 11 further comprising the steps of:

determining if a pointer exists in the primary database, the pointer indicating a remote database in a remote domain; and

if the pointer exists, correlating the query by accessing the remote database in the remote domain.

13. (original) The method of claim 11 further comprising the steps of:

presenting correlation results to the provider application; and

setting constraints and parameters at the provider application, the constraints and parameters for directing the retrieving of the locator data.

14. (original) The method of claim 12 further comprising the steps of:

presenting correlation results to the provider application; and

setting constraints and parameters at the provider application, the constraints and parameters for directing the retrieving of the locator data.

Claims 15-20 Cancelled.

21. (previously presented) Apparatus for building a database to enable the location of distributed information, the apparatus comprising:

means for creating universal person objects;

means for receiving metadata including organization information, demographic data, and information locator data from each of a plurality of disparate organizations, the information locator data from each of the plurality of disparate organizations including data that identifies a location of at least one health care record stored at a corresponding one of the plurality of disparate organizations;

means for searching the database for universal person objects;

means for updating a universal person object corresponding to the demographic data in accordance with the metadata; and

means for storing the information locator data so that the information locator data is associated with the universal person object corresponding to the demographic data so as to enable virtually centralized access to the health care records stored at the plurality of disparate organizations.

22. (previously presented) Apparatus for locating particular health care information pertaining to a person wherein the particular health care information is stored among distributed information, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a query from a provider;

means for correlating the query against at least a primary database at least a primary domain to locate a universal person object corresponding to the person;

means for retrieving locator data associated with the universal person object, the locator data including data that identifies, from among the plurality of disparate organizations, a remote location of the particular health care information pertaining to the person;

means for filtering the locator data according to one or more policies;

and

means for presenting the locator data to the provider so as to enable the provider to generate a virtually centralized view of health care records distributed among the plurality of disparate organizations.

23. (previously presented) A network for providing a virtually centralized view of health care information distributed among a plurality of disparate organizations comprising:

a provider application operable to issue queries; and

at least a first server connected to the provider application, and containing a primary correlation system connected to a primary database of universal person objects, the server operable to receive the queries, correlate the queries against the database, and retrieve locator data, the locator data indicating the location of one or more specific health care records from within the plurality of disparate organizations.

24. (original) The network of claim 23 further comprising a second server connected to the first server, and including a remote correlation system connected to a remote database of universal person objects.

25. (previously presented) The network of claim 23 further comprising a remote data system containing at least a portion of the distributed health care information, the remote data system operable to connect to the provider application, format, and supply one or more of the specific health care records over the network.

26. (previously presented) The network of claim 24 further comprising a remote data system containing at least a portion of the distributed health care information, the remote data system operable to connect to the provider application, format, and supply one or more of the specific health care records over the network.

27. (previously presented) A programmed computer system operable to build a database in an exchange system to enable a virtually centralized view of distributed health care information by performing the steps of:

- receiving metadata including organization information, demographic data, and information locator data from each of a plurality of disparate organizations, the information locator data from each of the plurality of disparate organizations including data that identifies a location of at least one health care record stored at a corresponding one of the plurality of disparate organizations;

- determining a universal person object corresponding to the demographic data;

- updating the universal person object in accordance with the metadata; and

- storing the information locator data so that the information locator data is associated with the universal person object.

28. (original) The system of claim 27 wherein the determining step further comprise the steps of:

searching the database for an existing universal person object corresponding to the demographic data and determining that there is no existing universal person object corresponding to the demographic data; and

creating the universal person object corresponding to the demographic data.

29. (original) The system of claim 27 wherein the determining step further comprises the step of searching the database and locating the universal person object corresponding to the demographic data.

30. (original) The system of claim 27 further enabled to perform the step of forwarding the universal person object to a parent server.

31. (original) The system of claim 28 further enabled to perform the step of forwarding the universal person object to a parent server.

32. (original) The system of claim 29 further enabled to perform the step of forwarding the universal person object to a parent server.

33. (previously presented) A programmed computer system which is operable to locate particular health care information pertaining to a person wherein the particular health care information is stored among distributed and disparate providers ~~provider's~~ by performing the steps of:

receiving a query from a provider;

correlating the query against at least a primary database at least a primary domain to locate a universal person object corresponding to the person;

retrieving locator data associated with the universal person object, the locator data including data that identifies a remote location of the particular health care information pertaining to the person from among the plurality of disparate providers;

filtering the locator data according to one or more policies; and

presenting the locator data to the provider so as to enable the provider to generate a virtually centralized view of health care records distributed among the plurality of disparate organizations .

34. (original) The system of claim 33 further enabled to perform the steps of:
determining if a pointer exists in the primary database, the pointer indicating a remote database in a remote domain; and
if the pointer exists, correlating the query against the remote database in the remote domain.

35. (original) The system of claim 33 further enabled to perform the steps of:
presenting correlation results to the provider; and
receiving constraints and parameters from the provider, the constraints and parameters for directing the retrieving of the locator data.

36. (original) The system of claim 34 further enabled to perform the steps of:
presenting correlation results to the provider; and
receiving constraints and parameters from the provider, the constraints and parameters for directing the retrieving of the locator data.

37. (previously presented) Apparatus for enabling a virtually centralized view of records distributed among disparate organizations, the apparatus comprising:
an information locator service for storing and accessing information locator data, the information locator data including data that identifies a remote location of the records distributed among the disparate organizations;
a database of universal person objects, each universal person object corresponding to a person and associated with information locator data in the information locator service; and
a correlation system connected to the database for correlating demographic information against the database to locate a particular universal person object.

38. (original) The apparatus of claim 37 further comprising a person identification service connected to the correlation system for providing a standard interface for receiving the demographic information.

39. (original) The apparatus of claim 37 further comprising a resource access description service for maintaining and applying policy information to information locator data.

40. (original) The apparatus of claim 38 further comprising a resource access description service for maintaining and applying policy information to information locator data.

41. Cancelled